



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Tomzak and Members of City Council  
**FROM:** Beverly R. Cameron, City Manager  
**DATE:** January 3, 2012  
**SUBJECT:** City Manager's Update

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Highlights of major activities and other notable developments:

***Heavy Equipment Training*** - The Safety Office successfully coordinated with Public Works to provide specialized heavy equipment and snow plow safety and operations training to selected Public Works employees. The training was provided by Virginia Department of Transportation Instructor Hank Gobar, with support instructors coming from VDOT's Northern Virginia and Ladysmith districts. City employees were comingled with VDOT employees during the week long "Basic Equipment Operator with Enhanced Snow Ops" course held at VDOT's Maintenance Training Academy in Thornburg. The course involved classroom instruction and assessments as well as practical field exercises and road training.



***HUD Renewal Funding*** - On December 20, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan awarded \$148,855 to three local programs through the Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care (CoC). Hope House will receive \$57,918 to provide supportive services for homeless women and children residing at the transitional housing facility. Micah Ecumenical Ministries was awarded

\$31,632 to provide permanent supportive housing assistance to end the cycle of homelessness for thirteen chronically homeless individuals. The George Washington Regional Commission will utilize \$59,305 to administer the regional Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). All grant exhibits are available for review on the CoC's website [www.fredcoc.org](http://www.fredcoc.org). The City's Community Development Planner, Marne Sherman, is on the CoC Grant Writing Committee which prepares and submits the annual grant application. HUD is expected to announce the awards for new funding applications in early 2012.

***EDT Adding Battlefield Industrial Park to Stakeholders Meetings Series*** - The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is adding the businesses and property owners in the Battlefield Industrial Park to the series of regularly scheduled meetings it convenes with various city stakeholder groups. The first meeting is set for noon, January 25, at Print Innovators on Belman Road. The other groups in this series of semi-annual or quarterly meetings include the U.S. Route 1 Corridor businesses, Princess Anne Street Corridor businesses, and Commercial Sales and Leasing Agents and HUBZone businesses. The meetings are intended to keep these businesses, property owners and professionals informed about city economic development activities and resources and to maintain a dialogue about development, redevelopment and business expansion/retention in these respective areas.

***Recreation Commission Volunteer Banquet*** - The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Recreation Commission Volunteer Banquet was held November 17 at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House. The ceremony celebrated the many partnerships and contributions the department has benefited from over the past year. One hundred twenty-three certificates and thirty-six major awards were presented during the banquet, including a special plaque re-naming the "Contributor of the Year" award after the Sunshine Lady Foundation, Incorporated. The Recreation Commission made this change to honor the multiple occasions this annual award has been achieved by the Sunshine Lady Foundation. By way of a special presentation, this award is now appropriately named *The Sunshine Lady Foundation Contributor of the Year Award*, and will be given annually to the most deserving annual contributor other than the Sunshine Lady Foundation.

The banquet highlighted the tremendous impact the contributions of the community had on the success of the department's mission. These honorees included three hundred thirty individuals who contributed a combined 17,241 hours of volunteer time, and one hundred fifty-one businesses and individuals who contributed a combined total of \$188,898. Additionally, seventeen non-department facilities offered their respective sites for department programs, totaling over 1,263 hours of donated facility time.

***Community Gardens*** - Registration for the new Community Garden program will begin on January 3 for City residents only. Registrations for the program will be taken through February 28, and an initial Garden Meeting will be held on March 7 for all registrants. The beginning of the garden season will be March 8 and will run through November 30. The gardens are located in the Cossey Botanical Garden on the corner of Grove Avenue and Littlepage Street. For more information [see City's website](#).

***FREdericksburg Regional Transit Celebrates 15 Years of Service*** - On December 16, FRED Transit celebrated fifteen years of transit service. Mayor Tom Tomzak honored the Reverend Lawrence A. Davies with a Proclamation thanking him for his support and dedication to providing safe, affordable transportation to the citizens of Fredericksburg and the surrounding counties. The Reverend Davies was instrumental in bringing transit service to the region; for that reason, he is the namesake of the FRED Transit operations building. When FRED service began in 1996, there were only four routes in the City. Now FRED boasts twenty-one routes throughout the City and the surrounding counties.

The anniversary festivities were not limited to staff and the luncheon for friends and supporters. FRED Transit also took an opportunity to celebrate with its passengers. Passengers enjoyed a chance to play FRED trivia, try their luck at spinning the FRED wheel, and could enter the drawing for a monthly or yearly FRED pass.

***Grants Awarded to FREdericksburg Regional Transit*** - The Mary Washington Hospital Board of Trustees has approved a Mary Washington Hospital Community Service Fund grant for FREdericksburg Regional Transit in the amount of \$25,653, and the Stafford Hospital Board of Trustees has approved a Stafford Hospital Community Service Fund grant for FRED in the amount of \$25,000. Both are one-year grants and are awarded based on certain goals and criteria. FRED will use these funds to promote increased access to quality health care, to contribute to containing the growth of the community's health care costs, and to improve the access of the poor and other medically underserved populations to high quality medical care by providing convenient, dependable, accessible and affordable transportation to health care providers and social service agencies that offer needed services.

FRED service provides transportation for residents to obtain their basic need items and services, including medical supplies and prescriptions, as well as to participate in social activities. Without public transit, which is supported by government and private partners such as Mary Washington Hospital and the Stafford Hospital Center, some segments of the region's population could become increasingly isolated and dependent on others or social service systems. Public transportation enhances the overall quality of life, individually and as a community. The trustees of Mary Washington Hospital and the trustees of Stafford Hospital are aware of the needs of the medically underserved in the community and strive to address these issues by providing grants to organizations such as FRED.

***New Police Officer and Officer Candidates*** – On December 13, the City's newest police officer Ryan Merrell graduated from the Officer Basic class at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy. Officer Merrell distinguished himself by being awarded first place in his class for outstanding physical fitness. Officer Merrell is currently completing his training by working under the supervision of qualified Field Training Officers who are assigned to various squads within the Police Department. On January 17, officer candidates Sara Lombrana and David Muir will join the Academy's next Officer Basic class, which runs full-time for seventeen weeks. Ms. Lombrana

started her affiliation with the Fredericksburg Police Department as a volunteer Spanish interpreter through the University of Mary Washington, and Mr. Muir spent twenty years with the New York City Police Department before relocating to Virginia and applying for a position in Fredericksburg.